

# barbican

## Barbican Cinema May 2024

Barbican Cinema celebrates artists and their activism in May with two programmes inspired by creatives who have pushed for social change and challenged the status quo. **James Baldwin**, one of the most influential writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and a powerful voice in the modern Civil Rights Movement, is remembered on the centenary of his birth through **The Devil Finds Work: James Baldwin Through Film**. Curated by **Dr Clive Chijioke Nwonka**, this film season explores Black representation in contemporary cinema through the ideas in Baldwin's 1976 seminal book *The Devil Finds Work*.

Rebellion against state control is at the heart of **Celluloid Underground**, a film that showcases cinema as a tool of resistance against religious fundamentalism. Part autobiography, part film collage, **Ehsan Khoshbakht's** film offers a fascinating insight into the lives of two cinephiles; the director himself and his late friend **Ahmad Jurghanian**, who go to great lengths to preserve and showcase banned 35mm film prints in post-revolution Iran. The screening will be followed by a ScreenTalk with Ehsan Khoshbakht.

Further May highlights include a **New East** screening and ScreenTalk of **Citizen Saint**, in which a real-life saint causes chaos for a superstitious mountain community in Georgia; and **Experiments in Film** presents **John Deakin: Pariah Genius** and **The Falconer**, two short films with a ScreenTalk in celebration of **Iain Sinclair's** new book, which chronicles the life of the renowned English photographer **John Deakin**.

Relaxed Screenings this month include the jazz-fuelled animé **Blue Giant** and the Oscar-nominated **American Fiction**; and Senior Community Screenings include **NT Live: Vanya** and **American Fiction**.

### Festivals, Seasons and Special Events:

- The Devil Finds Work: James Baldwin Through Film – **Thu 2 May – Wed 22 May**
- Celluloid Underground + ScreenTalk with Ehsan Khoshbakht – **Sat 4 May**

### Regular Programme strands

- Family Film Club – **every Sat**
- New East Cinema: *Citizen Saint* + ScreenTalk – **Tue 7 May**
- Senior Community Screenings: NT Live: *Vanya* – **Mon 13 May** + *American Fiction* – **Mon 27 May**
- Relaxed Screenings: *Blue Giant* – **Mon 13 May**, *American Fiction* – **Fri 31 May**
- Experiments in Film: John Deakin: *Pariah Genius* + *The Falconer*, two short films + ScreenTalk – **Thu 30 May**
- Pay What You Can Screenings – **every Fri**

### Event Cinema

- Royal Opera House Live: – **Sun 5 May**
- Met Opera Live: *Madama Butterfly* – **Sat 11 May**

- Royal Opera House Live: *The Winter's Tale* – Sun 26 May

## **Festivals, Seasons and Special Events**

### **The Devil Finds Work: James Baldwin Through Film**

**Thu 2 May - Wed 22 May**  
**Cinema 1 + 2**

Baldwin's book *The Devil Finds Work* is a personal exploration of American filmmaking and racial politics. Despite being published nearly 50 years ago the book and Baldwin's ideas and reflections remain a valuable account of the exploration of Black cinematic representation and viewing practices.

The season looks at James Baldwin's approaches to cinema and film criticism placing the films in dialogue with literature, popular culture, politics and society. There will be a ScreenTalk after each film to discuss its relevant themes and Baldwin's influence.

#### **Screenings:**

##### ***If Beale Street Could Talk* (15\*) + ScreenTalk**

US 2018, Dir Barry Jenkins, 117min

**Thu 2 May, 6pm, Cinema 2**

This screening will be shown with captions.

##### ***Hunger* (15\*) + ScreenTalk**

UK/ Ireland 2008, Dir Steve McQueen, 96min

**Wed 8 May, 6.20pm, Cinema 2**

##### **The Devil Finds Work shorts programme (15\*) + ScreenTalk**

**Sun 12 May, 3.20pm, Cinema 2**

##### ***35 Shots of Rum* (12A) + ScreenTalk**

France/ Germany 2009, Dir Claire Denis, 100min

**Wed 22 May, 6.15pm, Cinema 1**

This project is part of the 'James Baldwin and Britain' project (2024-2027), led by **Douglas Field**, **Kennetta Hammond Perry** and **Rob Waters**, with thanks for the generous support by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The film programme is curated by **Dr Clive Chijioke Nwonka**.

To view the full programme and press release:

[www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/the-devil-finds-work-james-baldwin-through-film](http://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/the-devil-finds-work-james-baldwin-through-film)

### **Celluloid Underground (12A) + ScreenTalk with Ehsan Khoshbakht**

UK/ Iran 2023, Dir Ehsan Khoshbakht, 80min

**Sat 4 May, 3.45pm**

**Cinema 1**

*Celluloid Underground* is a captivating exploration of film culture's resilience in the face of oppression, masterfully crafted by **Ehsan Khoshbakht**. Through the lens of two passionate cinephiles, Khoshbakht and his late friend **Ahmad Jurghanian**, the film honours cinema as a potent form of resistance.

Set against a backdrop of state violence, the documentary intertwines the journeys of Khoshbakht and Ahmad, united in their mission to preserve 35mm film prints in Iran.

Their dedication is palpable as they navigate the risks of imprisonment and torture to safeguard banned films hidden beneath Tehran's streets.

As the narrative unfolds, Khoshbakht's lyrical storytelling and evocative imagery immerse viewers in the sensory richness of cinema. Yet, amidst the romance lies a sobering acknowledgment of cinema's complex history, touching upon themes of exploitation and colonialism.

*Celluloid Underground* strikes a delicate balance between personal reflection and political commentary, offering profound insights into the human experience beyond the confines of the archive. Ultimately, it serves as a powerful reminder of cinema's enduring ability to illuminate and connect people together.

## **Regular Programme Strands**

### **Family Film Club**

**Every Sat, 11am**

**Cinema 2**

In May **Family Film Club** (FFC) features new titles, toddler friendly tales and classics that are best enjoyed on the big screen. The programme includes the new animation, ***Migration*** (US 2023), a special **Julia Donaldson** double of ***Snail and the Whale*** (UK/ South Africa 2019) and ***Room on the Broom*** (UK/ Germany 2012) and – to mark the release of his latest directorial offering this month (***Furiosa***) – FFC will revisit **George Miller's** 2006 hit, ***Happy Feet*** (US/ Australia).

Please check [www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/series/family-film-club](http://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/series/family-film-club) for full programme details.

### **New East Cinema: *Citizen Saint* (15\*) + ScreenTalk**

Georgia 2023, Dir Tinatin Kajrishvili, 100mins

**Tue 7 May, 6.15pm**

**Cinema 2**

In a Georgian mining town, the statue of a crucified saint hovers over the mines, blessing the locals. One day, the saint disappears, and when a mysterious young man comes to town, a series of small miracles create more chaos than good.

Filmed on location and with a mixed cast of miners and actors, **Tinatin Kajrishvili's** third feature film blends realism and religious allegory to pose questions about ethics' place in faith. Following the locals' destinies, many of which were marked by a pit accident a decade ago, *Citizen Saint* explores how much of the world humans are willing to sacrifice in the name of personal salvation.

*Citizen Saint* premiered in **Karlovy Vary** in 2023 and subsequently became Georgia's submission for the Academy Awards. The film's captivating black and white cinematography, created by Bulgarian Director of Photography **Krum Rodrigue**, received a Spotlight Award nomination from the American Society of Cinematographers.

### **Senior Community Screenings**

Welcoming 60+ cinema goers to watch the latest new releases every other Monday morning:

**NT Live: Vanya**

**Mon 13 May, 11am**

## Cinema 2

**Andrew Scott** (*Fleabag*) brings multiple characters to life in **Simon Stephens'** radical new version of **Chekhov's** *Uncle Vanya*.

Filmed live during its sold-out run in London's West End, *Vanya* will be playing exclusively in cinemas in 2024. Directed by **Simon Stephens** (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*).

This screening will be shown with HoH Captions.

**American Fiction** (15) (AD)

USA 2023, Dir Cord Jefferson, 117min

**Mon 27 May, 11am**

**Cinema 2**

A novelist who is fed up with the establishment profiting from Black entertainment uses a pen name to write a book that propels him into the heart of the hypocrisy and madness he claims to disdain.

With Oscar nominations for Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, Best Score, and both **Jeffrey Wright** and **Sterling K Brown** nominated for Best Actor, **Cord Jefferson** has cemented a name for himself with this directorial debut.

### [Relaxed Screenings](#)

Relaxed screenings take place in an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, as well as those who find a more informal setting beneficial:

**Blue Giant** (12A)

Japan 2023, Dir Yuzuru Tachikawa, 119min

**Mon 13 May, 6.10pm**

**Cinema 3**

Highschool basketballer Dai Miyamoto's life is turned upside down the day he discovers jazz, in this charming anime feature from director **Yuzuru Tachikawa**.

**American Fiction** (15) (AD)

USA 2023, Dir Cord Jefferson, 117min

**Fri 31 May, 12pm**

**Cinema 3**

### [Experiments in Film: John Deakin: \*Pariah Genius\* + \*The Falconer\*, two short films + ScreenTalk](#)

**Pariah Genius**

UK 2024, Dirs Emma Matthews, Chris Petit, Susan Stenger + Iain Sinclair, 25min

**The Falconer**

UK, 1998, Dirs Chris Petit + Iain Sinclair, 56min

**Thu 30 May, 6pm**

**Cinema 1**

Marking the publication of celebrated London chronicler **Iain Sinclair's** new book *Pariah Genius, John Deakin & The Soho Court around Francis Bacon, The Biography of an Afterlife* (Cheerio Publishing), this special event presents the world premiere of a new film – made in response to Deakin's life – made by **Emma Matthews, Chris Petit, Susan Stenger**

and **Sinclair** himself – who will all be in conversation with **Gareth Evans** after the double-bill screening.

### **Pay What You Can Screenings**

Every Friday one of the new release film screenings is priced **Pay What You Can**. This is for customers where ticket price may be a barrier, or for those who want to help others enjoy a visit to the cinema; audience members are invited to pay between £3-£15.

### **Event Cinema**

#### **Royal Opera House Live: Carmen** (12A)

**Sun 5 May, 2pm**  
**Cinema 3**

**Aigul Akmetshina** performs the title role in **Damiano Michieletto's** sizzling new production of **Bizet's** ever-popular opera.

#### **Met Opera Live in HD: Madama Butterfly** (12A)

**Sat 11 May 2024, 5.55pm**  
**Cinema 1**

In her Met debut, **Asmik Grigorian** tackles the demanding role of Cio-Cio-San, the trusting geisha at the heart of **Puccini's** tragedy.

#### **Royal Opera House Live: The Winter's Tale** (12A)

**Sun 26 May, 2pm**  
**Cinema 3**

Shakespeare's profound story of love and loss, artfully adapted into a contemporary three-act narrative ballet by Artistic Associate **Christopher Wheeldon**, celebrates its tenth anniversary.

### **ENDS**

Notes to Editors  
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#### **New Releases:**

Standard:	£13
Barbican members:	£10.40
Young Barbican	£5
Concessions:	£11
ScreenTalk	£13/£14.50
Under 18s:	£6

- **Pay What You Can Screenings:** tickets available from £3-£15 on a new release title every Friday, for customers where ticket price may be a barrier, or for those who want to help others enjoy a visit to the cinema.
- **Family Film Club** Under 18s: £2.50 / Over 18s: £3.50.
- **Parent & Baby screenings:** Standard: £6.
- **Senior Community Screenings:** £6
- **Relaxed Screenings** welcome cinema goers to an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, tickets are £6.
- **Monday Magic:** £6 all new release screenings.
- **Young Barbican:** £5 all new release screenings and curated programmes for 14 - 25-year-olds - when they sign up.

#### **Events/Seasons/Festivals:**

Standard:	£13
Barbican members:	£9.60
Corporate Members:	Varied Discount
Young Barbican	£5
Concessions:	£11
Under 18s:	£6

#### **Performance Cinema/Live and Encore:**

##### ROH Live

Standard:	£21
Barbican Members:	£16.80
Corporate Members:	Varied Discount
Young Barbican:	£10

##### Met Opera Live

Standard:	£37
Barbican Members:	£29.60
Corporate Members:	Varied Discount
Young Barbican:	£15

There is £1.50 booking fee for purchases made online / # Certificate to be confirmed

\* This film has been locally classified by the City of London Corporation

#### **Barbican press room**

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at [www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room](http://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room)

#### **About the Barbican**

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [Human Rights Watch Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

### **About Barbican Cinema**

We connect audiences with a curated programme of international cinema; from celebrated filmmakers to ground-breaking and under-heard voices from past and present.

Our programmes are presented in Cinemas 1 in the main centre and Cinemas 2&3 on Beech Street. Our programme ranges from thematic seasons that respond to today's world, to new releases, ScreenTalks, cross-artform collaborations, family events, access screenings and event cinema that presents the performing arts on screen.

We showcase the work of emerging filmmakers, as well as less familiar work of exceptional filmmakers from the UK and around the world.

We champion the work of Barbican Young Programmers and give stage to emerging musicians in our ongoing film & live music series which includes our flagship collaboration with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

As part of a cross-arts centre, our cinemas are a cultural space for people to share the viewing experience. We strive to be inclusive in everything we do; providing platforms for the widest possible range of filmmakers and ensuring we are an open, welcoming and accessible venue for all our audiences.